

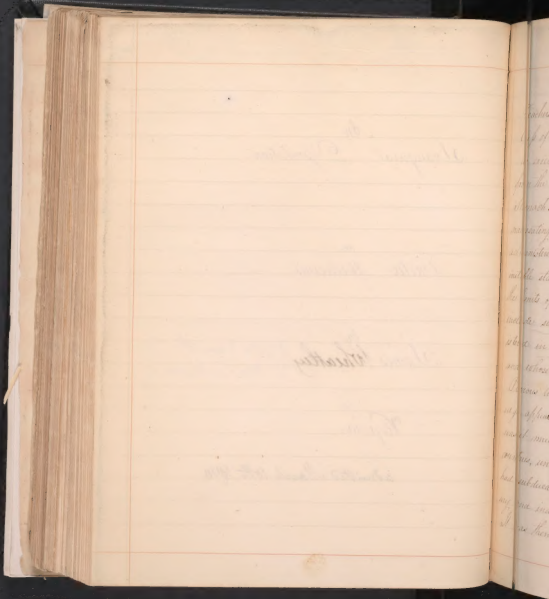
10 #7
In
Inaugural Dissertation

on
Emetic Medicines

by
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of
Virginia.

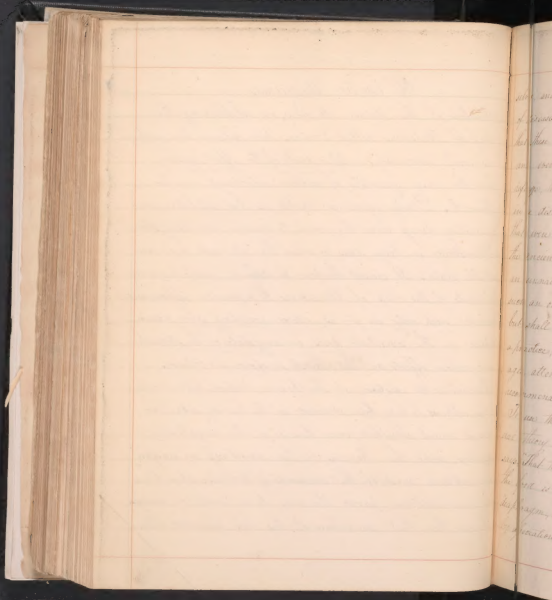
admitted March 10th 1810



Of Emetic Medicines.

Teachers of the Materia Medica, in establishing the Class of Medicines called Emetics, have defined them such as excite vomiting independent of the effect arising from the mere quantity of matter introduced into the Stomach. Daily experience teaches us that all bitter and nauseating drugs have the power to induce vomiting when administered in large doses or when the stomach is in an irritable state. It cannot therefore be advised to restrict the limits of this class of Medicines to a smaller sphere and include such only in it as induce vomiting when administered in the smallest doses, in any state of the stomach, and whose effects are the most uniform and certain.

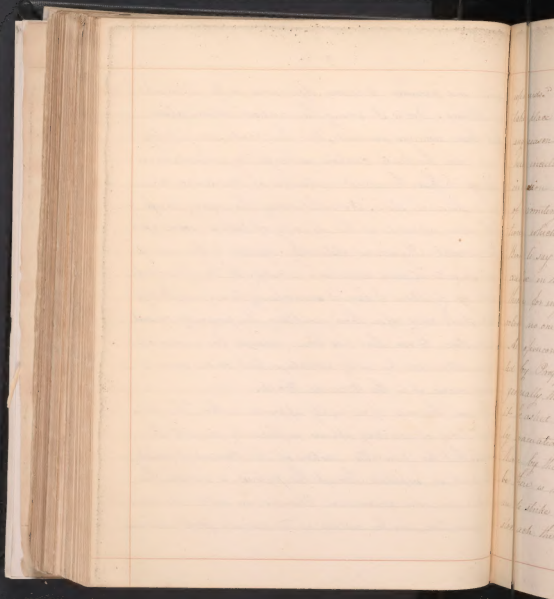
Previous to the existence of the Roman Empire, little knowledge appears to have been attained in the healing art. Nor was it much cherished, even there or in the neighbouring countries, until the Romans by their advent, sup in warfare had subdued most of the surrounding nations; when luxury and indolence paved the way to a train of diseases. It was then that medicines of this class presented them-



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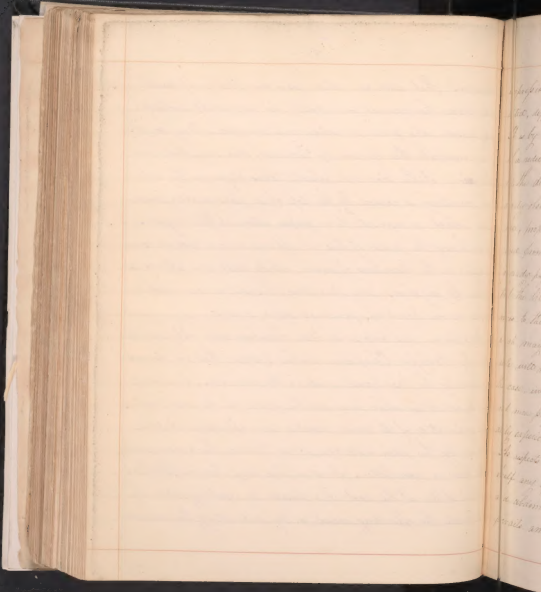
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selves, and promises to become efficacious in the treatment
of diseases. Nor is it among the civilized nations alone,
that these remedies are used, but the most savage tribes,
and even the brute creation, although by instinct, have
assemblage to those the most valuable of Medicines when
in a diseased state. Notwithstanding the many proofs
that were adduced of the efficacy of Emetics, some of
the ancient Physicians obstinately objected to their use, as
an unnatural, and dangerous remedy. Of the falseness of
such an objection I deem it unnecessary to say anything;
but shall only add, those doubting the propriety of such
a practice, to enquire that has been pursued for a series of
ages, attended by every advantage that could serve to
recommend it to the Medical World.

To use the words of an highly approved author. The gen-
eral theory of vomiting appears sufficiently evident. He
says, "That the peristaltic motion of the Stomach, by which
the food is propelled through the pylorus, is inverted, the
Diaphragm, and abdominal Muscles are called into action
by a Spasmodic, and the contents of the stomach forcibly driven



pharmacists. That such an action as is here spoken of must take place, there cannot be a doubt, but we are left without any reason why such an action does take place. May we not here indicate the opinion of Darwin, and say, that the involution of the stomach, which takes place in the act of vomiting is caused by the loss of a pleasurable sensation, which is requisite to a proper action of that organ. But to say the most of this, it appears to be a subject controversial in the Regulus of nature, which will ever afford a theme for ingenious and speculative theorists; and one which involves no one point of practical importance.

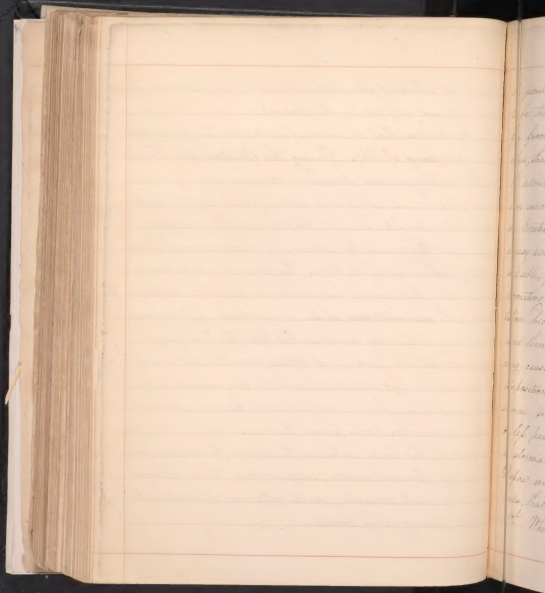
An opinion has long since been cherished and ably advocated by Professor Chapman in his lectures; that in diseases generally, the first cause exists in the stomach. And may, it be asked in what way can the stomach be more readily evacuated of its acrid, vitiated and offensive contents, than by the administration of an Emetic. The answer must be there is none better. It is in this way, therefore, that we are to strike at the roots of a disease by expelling from the stomach the offending cause, or by subverting the nascent



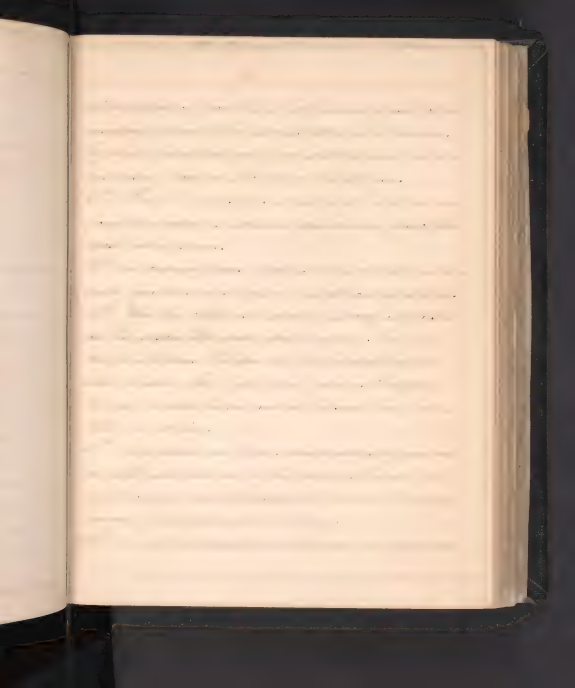
impulsion which it has created, before it has become invigorated, diffused, or forced in the stomach.

It is by Emetics, that we are enabled to clear the biliary duct of a redundancy of bile. During the operation of an Emetic, the diaphragm and abdominal Muscles (as has been already observed) are called into action; which by their propulsion, propel the bile from its bladder, into the duodenum, and from thence into the stomach, by which means it finds a ready passage out of the body. By some it is maintained that the bile, thus thrown out, exists in the stomach previous to the administration of the medicine of the Medicine. Such may be the case sometimes, but that this as a general rule, will not hold good, must appear from this, that were it so, the first attempt to vomit the bile would be thrown out immediately, then in any succeeding paroxysm, which daily experience teaches us, is not the case.

To suppose the power vested in the stomach, to discharge from itself any offensive matter, independent of the diaphragm and abdominal Muscles, much difference of sentiment prevails among physiologists.

















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The first thing I did was to go to the
 bank and see what the interest was on
 my money. I found that it was
 very low, and I was disappointed.
 I then went to the office and saw
 the manager. I told him that I
 was a student and that I needed
 money for my books. He was
 very kind and gave me a loan.
 I was very grateful to him.
 I then went to the library and
 found some books that I needed.
 I was very happy to find them.
 I then went to the store and
 bought some food. I was very
 happy to find everything I needed.
 I then went to the bank and
 saw the manager. I told him that
 I had the money and that I was
 very grateful to him. He was
 very kind and gave me a loan.
 I was very grateful to him.
 I then went to the library and
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Nor are these the only cases, in which the efficacy of this application is known. The Surgeon, when almost overcome by fatigue, and exhausted through anxiety for his patient, labouring under incarcerated Hernia, by the appropriate use of this remedy; is made the happy instrument whereby the life of the miserable sufferer is restored, and he becomes a living monument of the efficacy of this article, in extreme cases.

There are also many other affections, such as Dropsy, Dysentery, Diarrhoea, Gleet, Ischia, Pertussis, Quins, &c. &c. not to mention many more, in the treatment of which Emetic Medicines hit a conspicuous part. To say the least of this class of medicines, it is one, by which we are often enabled to triumph over diseases, which carry with them terror and agitation; and may we not flatter ourselves that we long, by assiduity and attention, we may be enabled to erase many, which now crowd the oppressive list of incurable diseases.

